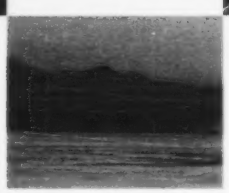
PACIFIC FISHERIES ADJUSTMENT AND RESTRUCTURING PROGRAM

A PLAN TO REVITALIZE CANADA'S PACIFIC FISHERIES

Progress Report for Year One

JUNE 1998 TO JULY 1999



Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Human Resources Development Canada

Western Economic Diversification Canada

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Government of Canada Gouvernement du Canada

Message from the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada

The past year has been one of tremendous change in the West Coast salmon fishery – change in the way Fisheries and Oceans Canada manages the fishery, change in environmental conditions, and change in the salmon fishery itself.

With these changes challenges have come – both to those dependent upon the salmon resource who have had to cope with significant adjustments, and to Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

To address the impacts of the changes in the Pacific fishery, in June 1998 the federal government announced the $400 million Pacific Fisheries Adjustment and Restructuring Program (PFAR) for measures in three broad initiatives:

- First, restructuring the commercial fishing industry by moving to selective harvesting, diversifying fishing opportunities, and further reducing the salmon fleet;
- Second, helping people and communities adjust; and
- Third, increased efforts in protecting and rebuilding salmon habitat.

This $400 million program is being delivered over a three to five-year period by Fisheries and Oceans Canada and its federal partners – Human Resources and Development Canada (HRDC), Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). It is a significant new expenditure that is addressing the needs both of those leaving the salmon fishing industry and those who have chosen to remain. As of July 31, 1999 the federal government has invested $169 million of these funds for initiatives including the vessel tie-up program, licence retirement, selective fishing, training and adjustment programs for individuals, community economic development, salmon habitat improvements, tourism marketing, and the Recreational Fishery Loan Program.

Conservation is the top priority in the management of Canada's Pacific salmon resource. Faced with dwindling stocks, particularly some coho stocks near extinction, the Department implemented a fish first approach in 1998. Putting fish first means sticking to long-term objectives, even if it means short term adjustments.

For the 1999 salmon fishing season, strict conservation measures remain for all sectors. A commercial salmon licence fee dispensation is in place to respond to continuing conservation concerns and the resulting decrease in fishing opportunities on the west coast. This will allow fishermen the opportunity to elect not to participate in the fishery for this season without losing salmon licence eligibility for the next season.

The broad range of initiatives currently underway with the PFAR program will help conservation measures work, provide improved conditions for the people that work with the resource, and provide a secure future for the resource itself.

104-05523/

Pacific Fisheries Adjustment and Restructuring Program

Restructuring the Fishery
$200 million over three years

Licence Retirement: *$106.7 million*

746 licences were retired in two rounds at a total cost of $106.7 million. These licences represent 27% of eligible seine licences, 20% of gillnet and 25% of troll, which represents a total of 38% of the salmon fleet to date.

The Voluntary Commercial Salmon Licence Retirement Program is designed to meet conservation objectives through a substantial reduction in the number of licensed salmon vessels in the commercial fleet. This voluntary program is designed to reduce the level of dependence on a fluctuating resource. This will provide more opportunities for those fishermen who remain in the industry. The program uses a "reverse auction" method where licence holders submit bids indicating the value they place on retiring their salmon licence privileges.

Reductions in the commercial salmon fleet are essential if conservation objectives are to be achieved. A smaller fleet will contribute to a more viable and sustainable fishing industry in the future. Licence retirements to date have been highly successful. In 1996, there were approximately 4,112 commercial salmon licences on the West Coast. Today there are 2,557 eligible licences remaining, achieved through successive licence retirement programs which began in 1996. Since 1996, the federal government has spent approximately $187 million on voluntary commercial salmon licence retirement to ensure that the fleet is reduced to a more sustainable level.

- The first round of the Salmon Licence Retirement Program closed on November 20, 1998. Bids were reviewed by an independent panel which included representatives from all commercial fishing sectors and 99 licences were recommended for retirement.

- The accepted bids were comprised of 46 seine, 20 gillnet and 33 troll licences which represent 9.4 per cent of all eligible seine licences, 1.1 per cent of gillnet, and 3.3 per cent of troll. This left 3,205 commercial salmon licences eligible for the licence retirement program on the West Coast. Of these licences, 442 are seine, 1,805 are gillnet, and 956 are troll. The average payment was $420,152 for seine eligibilities, $77,880 for gillnet and $77,532 for troll.
- The second round of licence retirement recommended 647 licences for retirement. The accepted bids were comprised of 88 seine, 341 gillnet and 218 troll licence eligibilities, which represent 18 per cent of all eligible seine licences, 19 per cent of gillnet, and 22 per cent of troll. The average payment to fishermen choosing the program was $432,115 for seine eligibilities, $80,840 for gillnet and $82,119 for troll.
- A third round will be held in the fall of 1999.

Selective Fisheries *$8.6 million*

Since June 1998, Fisheries and Oceans Canada funding for the selective fisheries program has totaled $8.6 million.

Selective fishing represents a fundamental and permanent change to the Pacific fishery that allows First Nations and the commercial and recreational sectors to continue to harvest more abundant stocks while protecting weaker ones. This year, the Department will continue to encourage the use of existing selective fishing methods which have already shown to be successful. Financial support is being provided for the development and testing of new technologies or modifications to existing gear.

Message from the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada

The past year has been one of tremendous change in the West Coast salmon fishery – change in the way Fisheries and Oceans Canada manages the fishery, change in environmental conditions, and change in the salmon fishery itself.

With these changes challenges have come – both to those dependent upon the salmon resource who have had to cope with significant adjustments, and to Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

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- Forty experimental projects were supported this past year, including experiments with gear modification and methodology, testing of new fishing technologies and projects to improve the selectivity of food, social and ceremonial fisheries for Aboriginal groups.
- An industry technical workshop was held for all sectors on November 3–5, 1998 and another workshop was held on February 1–2, 1999 to discuss what was learned in the experiments, and to explore different ideas presented by the workshop participants.
- A policy framework on "Selective Fishing in Canada's Pacific Fisheries" was released May 7, 1999.

Diversification *$0.4 million*

- The federal government is providing funds to support diversification efforts through the development of commercial fisheries for under-utilized species. This encompasses new and experimental fisheries, expansion of existing but under-utilized fisheries, expansion of aquaculture to other species, and encouraging value-added in existing fisheries.
- Work is currently underway on 5 pilot fisheries: Neon Flying Squid, Pilchards, Mackerel and Deep-water Tanner Crab.
- A workshop to develop an abalone rebuilding strategy was held in February, 1999.

Tourism Promotion and Awareness Campaign *$3.9 million*

- Fisheries and Oceans Canada is working with the Canadian Tourism Commission, the Sport Fishing Institute and Tourism BC on a tourism and marketing campaign aimed at encouraging recreational fishermen to come to British Columbia and countering the negative perception that "the coast is closed." This includes promoting conservation-based and selective recreational fishing at trade shows, print advertising and public awareness programs.

Community Economic Development and Adjustment

$100 million over three years

This area covers a variety of programs delivered by three federal departments, Human Resources Development Canada, Western Economic Diversification Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Adjustment *$16.2 million*

In addition to $250 million spent annually by HRDC in BC, funding of $30 million is available over a three-year period to assist Aboriginal, commercial and recreational participants in the fishery, whether to prepare for employment outside the fishery, to supplement or replace fishing employment with alternative work, to develop small business proposals, or to explore other adjustment possibilities.

Between April 1998 and July 1999, HRDC delivered adjustment assistance totaling $26.7 million for 389 fishery-related projects assisting 14,471 individuals. This includes adjustment assistance delivered through regular programming and $16.2 million from the Canadian Fisheries Adjustment and Restructuring Program.

HRDC programs are being delivered at the local community level, including:

- Targeted Wage Subsidies
- Self-Employment Assistance
- Job Creation Partnerships
- Purchase of Training
- Local Labour Market Partnerships
- Employment Assistance Services
- All the above programs are also available to those individuals that may not qualify for EI.

Vessel Tie-Up *$9.1 million*

One-time payments totalling $9.1M were made in 1998 to 1,266 salmon vessel owners (38% of the salmon fleet).

- Commercial salmon licence fees were suspended for 1998, and payments for pre-season costs incurred were made to vessel owners who chose not to fish in 1998.

- The tie-up payments were $6,500 for gillnet and troll boat owners and $10,500 for seine boat owners.
- Approximately 11 per cent (172) of northern seines, 15 per cent (322) of southern seines, 47 per cent (1,077) of northern gillnetters, 24 per cent (401) of Johnstone Strait gillnetters, 15 per cent (657) of Fraser River gillnetters, 39 per cent (313) of northern trollers, 47 per cent (469) of outside trollers and 24 per cent (221) of inside trollers took advantage of the vessel tie-up program.

Community Information Delivery Program

- A series of ongoing open houses are being held to provide all available information to the public on current programs being offered by the Government of Canada under the $400 million Pacific Fisheries Adjustment and Restructuring Program.

Economic Development *$1.6 million*

- Western Economic Diversification Canada is providing $18 million under the Community Economic Adjustment Initiative (CEAI) to encourage economic development and diversification in BC's coastal communities through its partners, the Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs). Operating as non-profit corporations and governed by volunteer boards of directors representing community interests, CFDCs offer business counselling and loan programs to community members interested in expanding or starting their own businesses. Funding is also available to pursue economic development and diversification opportunities.
- Two community economic development forums are planned to increase community awareness of available resources. The first one was held in Prince Rupert on May 17.

Additional community economic development activities:

- A dozen coastal meetings have been organized and jointly attended by HRDC, INAC, Community Futures and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Hundreds of clients have taken advantage of the opportunity to meet with federal resource people and ask questions about program details. Each session has provided new suggestions for employment and development projects.
- A review to consider the economic development and adjustment measures required to address recent changes in the fishery was completed (Ghislason Review). Community leaders and groups – both aboriginal and non-aboriginal – were consulted in the course of this work.

Recreational Fishery Loan Program *$6.8 million*

- People involved in the business end of the recreational fishery have applied for 123 loans worth $6.8 million under the Recreational Fishery Loan Program. Projects to be undertaken through this program, administered by Community Futures Development Corporations along the coast, include eco-tourism initiatives, charter boat upgrades, whale watching, marketing financing and upgrades to resort properties. Diversification in the tourism industry will allow lodge and charter boat operators to take advantage of a wider range of opportunities.

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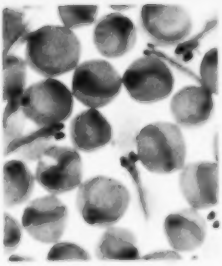
Rebuilding the Resource

$100 million over five years

$15.7 million provided for habitat restoration, salmon enhancement and habitat conservation and stewardship initiatives in 1998–99.

The main elements of the Resource Rebuilding program are:



- Foster community-based watershed stewardship by establishing stewardship coordinators and habitat auxiliaries to assist community groups, industry, local government and volunteers to effectively protect habitat;
- Repair damaged habitat and rebuild weak salmon stocks by extending the Habitat Restoration and Salmon Enhancement Program (HRSEP);
- Establish the Pacific Salmon Resource Rebuilding Fund;
- Rebuild threatened salmon stocks, such as coho, through strategic stock enhancement.

Habitat Restoration and Salmon Enhancement Program (HRSEP)

$10 million

The federal government provided an additional $10 million to HRSEP in 1998/99 for a range of community projects designed to conserve salmon and their habitat in BC and the Yukon. Many of the projects were designed to improve weak coho salmon stocks.

Some of these projects were:

- $90,000 to "Salmon in the City" for a community-run project to establish healthy, self-sustaining salmon runs in Nanaimo's Millstone River.
- $100,000 to the Alberni Valley Enhancement Association and Ducks Unlimited to restore part of the Somass River estuary as long-term habitat for fish and wildlife.
- $100,000 to the Baker Creek Enhancement Society and the cities of Quesnel and Williams Lake, to map urban streams in the Cariboo and Omineca-Peace regions.
- Fraser Valley municipalities received $100,000 to improve fish habitat in drainages in agricultural areas and streams flowing through farmlands in the Fraser Valley.

- $70,000 to improve passage for migrating adult coho salmon through Little Hells Gate on the North Thompson River by removing large boulders that have fallen into the river from unstable canyon walls.
- $88,000 to improve coho access to prime habitat in the Hagensborg Slough, near Bella Coola, by replacing culverts through a dyke. Partners include the Central Coast Fishermen's Protective Association.
- $100,000 to protect sensitive and productive coho habitat in several streams in the North Thompson and Shuswap river systems by planting vegetation along banks and building fences to prevent livestock from damaging streamside (riparian) areas. Partners include landowners and First Nations.
- $136,000 to develop rearing areas for young salmon such as chinook and coho in a newly constructed side-channel of the Campbell River. Partners include the North Island Fisheries Initiative.
- $45,000 to improve water flows and salmon access to a section of the Squamish River estuary that was previously dyked. Partners include the Squamish River Watershed Society.

Community Stewardship *$4.3 million*

Fifteen individuals are being hired to help communities protect fish habitat and improve watershed stewardship in pilot areas throughout BC and the Yukon. The positions will be based in Victoria, Campbell River, Prince George, Salmon Arm, Queen Charlotte City, Port Alberni, Abbotsford, Williams Lake, Maple Ridge, Smithers, Whitehorse and Gold River. About $1 million is being spent on these 15 positions.

The individuals will be part of a network of habitat auxiliaries and stewardship coordinators that Fisheries and Oceans Canada is developing. A total of 15 habitat auxiliaries and stewardship coordinators are being hired in 12 areas. They will assist community and stewardship groups, industry, First Nations and government agencies to more effectively prevent habitat damage. These positions will help advocate for fish and fish habitat, participate in watershed planning and promote sustainable use of land and water resources.

Additional positions will be filled over the course of this year. Stewardship coordinators and habitat auxiliaries will augment and complement the Department's existing habitat program, including the work of community advisors – who support enhancement and stewardship groups – and habitat field staff.

Strategic Enhancement *$1.4 million*

A further $1.4 million in 1998/99 went to efforts to address serious conservation concerns for coho stocks using salmon hatcheries and enhancement. Partners included the local First Nations. In the Upper Skeena watershed, wild coho stocks from the Upper Bulkley and Babine rivers and Toboggan Creek continued to be supported and rebuilt through enhancement. New enhancement work was begun on the Morice River.

On the Thompson River, existing enhancement continued on coho stocks for the Salmon, Coldwater, Spius, Deadman, Louis, Lemieux and Dunn river systems. New enhancement work began in the Eagle, Duteau and Middle Shuswap systems.

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Restructuring the Fishery:	
Licence Retirement	$106.7M
Selective Fishing	8.6M
Diversification/Tourism Promotion	4.3M
Community Economic Development and Adjustment:	
Adjustment	$16.2M
Vessel Tie-Up	$9.1M
Community Economic Adjustment Initiative	$1.6M
Recreational Fishing Loan Program	$6.8M
Rebuilding the Resource:	
Habitat Restoration and Salmon Enhancement Program (HRSEP)	$10.0M
Community Stewardship	$4.3M
Strategic Enhancement	$1.4M
Total Expenditures and Commitments to July 31, 1999	$169.0M

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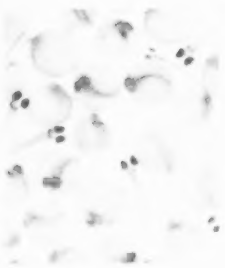

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Produced by Communications Branch
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